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Tuesday, March 6, 2007

B-C Kitchen Rumors Spark Dorm Concern

Residents Worried Over Future of Kitchens

By Nick Semenkovich

STAFF REPORTER

Rumors have cropped up regarding plans to replace Burton-Conner's kitchens with undergraduate rooms, though administrators claim there are no plans to do so. The rumors surfaced in the week before President Susan Hockfield's Feb. 13 visit to Burton-Conner, prompting a petition, two bills by the Undergraduate Association, and a small flutter of e-mails across the bc-talk mailing list.

Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict said "there are zero plans" to remove Burton-Conner's kitchens. "It's all just rumor," he said. "I told the UA that this isn't happening."

Despite his assurances, the UA passed two resolutions concerning Burton-Conner's kitchens. Resolution 6.1 describes Burton-Conner's kitchens as "focal points of the suite, floor, and dorm-wide community interactions," and "indispensable to students." The bill also states that the UA Senate "opposes any plans to remove [the] kitchens" unless residents are involved in the decision-making process.

"Even if this is just a rumor, we need to be proactive," said Ruth Miller '07, co-sponsor of resolution 6.1. Miller is the UA Vice President and also a *Tech* campus life columnist.

"We just wanted to be prepared,"

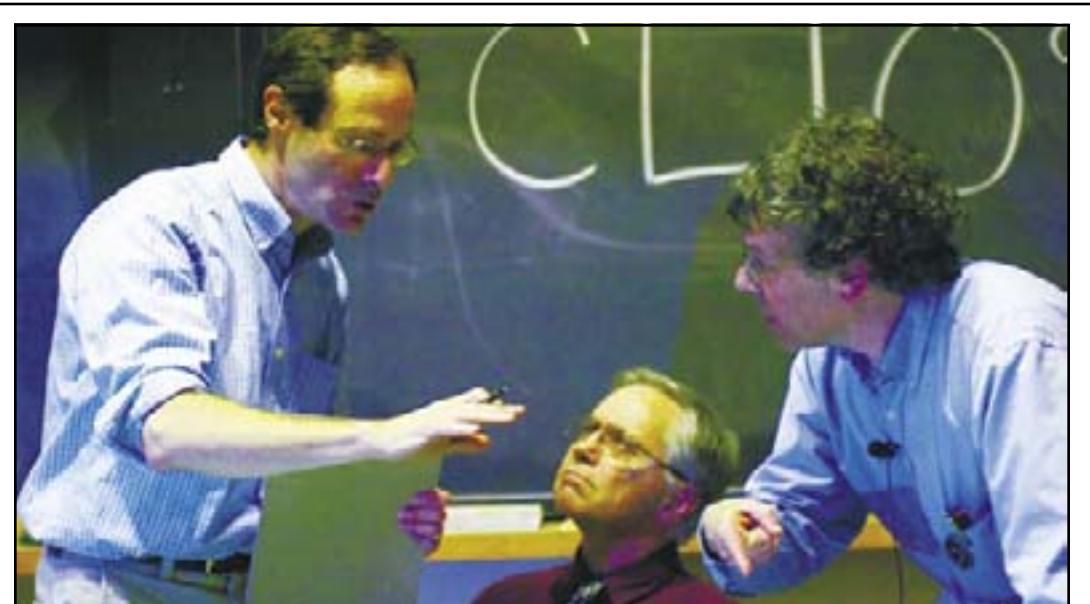
said Ali S. Wyne '08, UA Senator from Burton-Conner and a *Tech* opinion staff writer, who also co-sponsored the legislation. He said there was not a single person he talked to in Burton-Conner that was in favor of removing the kitchens. "The point was that in the event this proposal is seriously considered ... we would have the petition and bill ready."

While no one seems to know the source of the rumor, Benedict suggested that it could have come from the 2004 Housing Strategies Interim Report. That report has been accurate so far, correctly describing the construction of NW35 and an expansion of the undergraduate class size. The report also suggests turning Random Hall into a sorority, closing Bexley Hall for use in "non-housing purposes," and ending Senior Segue, a program where undergraduates can live in graduate housing during their senior year.

"Every now and then, people start reading that report and they get hysterical," said Benedict. He said that none of those options are currently being considered.

Miller, however, was wary of statements that no plan existed to remove Burton-Conner's kitchens. "This seems to happen a lot, where [the administration] tells us there are

Kitchens, Page 15



Mathematics Professor David S. Jerison, Michael Ouellette, senior lecturer in the Music and Theater Arts Department, and Jeremy M. Wolfe, senior lecturer in the Brain and Cognitive Sciences Department, of the Hamentashen team prepare a counterargument to the Latke team during the Latke vs. Hamentashen Debate. The debate attracted a large audience that filled 10-250 on Monday night. Following the debate, participants and viewers enjoyed hundreds of hamentashen and latkes in Lobby 10.

GHEORGHE CHISTOL—THE TECH

CME Being Funded Another Year

By Valery K. Brobbey

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Cambridge-MIT Institute is providing funding for the Cambridge-MIT Exchange program in what will be the last year of the CMI. Funding from CMI for the exchange program was originally supposed to last until 2006, and it was uncertain where funding for CME would come from. CMI is expected to fold up in 2008, and other funding sources will need to be found for CME.

According to Malgorzata Hed-

derick, assistant dean for the Office of Study Abroad, the number of MIT students in next year's program will be reduced to 25 because of the loss of funding from CMI next year. There are currently 34 MIT students in Cambridge and 36 Cambridge students at MIT.

"We are working with Dean [for the Office of Undergraduate Education Daniel E.J. Hastings PhD '80 ... to find funding" and "to look for sustainable ways to move forward," Hedderick said. The loss of funding

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Presbrey Makes Millions With Startup

Junior Earned \$6 Million By Selling High School Networking Web Site

By Joyce Kwan

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

What with some successful startups making hundreds of millions of dollars these days, \$6 million may

not seem like a lot. But it is still enough to impress most college students, and Joseph W. Presbrey '08 earned that

very amount back in March 2006 by selling a social networking site for high school students to Alloy, a media and marketing company targeting young consumers.

The idea for the site, called Sconex, came into existence after a conversation between Presbrey's collaborator, Jawad Laraqui '04, and his sister, who complained that she and

her friends could not use Facebook because they were in high school. (Facebook has since been opened up to high school students.)

Presbrey said that he and Laraqui began working on Sconex around Independent Activities Period 2004, during which "we were working

Millionaire, Page 12



Two vehicles involved in an accident in front of Simmons Hall yesterday caused damage to five other neighboring parked vehicles.

WILLIAM YEE—THE TECH

News

Search for Sloan dean underway Page 13
Recommendations on Sudan divestment being finalized Page 14

Photo

The Chorallaries leave a 'Bad Taste' on Saturday

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Ronald H. Stowell

Ronald H. Stowell, a postdoctoral research associate in the MIT Plasma Science and Fusion Center, passed away shortly after 3:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 4, as confirmed by the Somerville Police. He was 36.

The cause of death has yet to be determined, according to a representative of the Somerville Police.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of a member of our community," said Pamela Dumas Serfes, a spokesperson for MIT.

Stowell, who came to MIT with a PhD in 2005 from Princeton University's Program in Plasma Physics, also served as a teaching assistant for the undergraduate math course Differential Equations (18.03) this term. He taught three sections, close to one-tenth of the

Stowell, Page 15

In Short

MacGregor House is running another dining pilot program similar to the one held last semester to continue gauging student interest in bringing back MacGregor Dining. Dinners will be held Monday nights for at least four weeks from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The all-you-can-eat dinners will cost \$7 without preferred dining and \$3.50 with pre-

ferred dining. The first dinner was last night.

Petition for candidacy packets for the Undergraduate Association elections are due tomorrow at 5 p.m. Campaigning starts Thursday.

Send news information and tips to news@the-tech.mit.edu.

WORLD & NATION

Stock Markets Continue Their Decline

By Jeremy W. Peters
and Heather Timmons

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The fallout from last week's global stock dive showed few signs of letting up on Monday, as markets from Hong Kong to New York deepened their losses.

Share prices in the United States fell for the eighth time in the last nine trading days. The combined losses have wiped out more than 5 percent of the American market's value.

Wall Street started the morning in the red, then bobbed in and out of positive territory. At first, investors appeared moved to sell by a report showing that business activity in the service industry fell to the lowest level in almost four years. But those losses were later reversed, and for much of the day it looked as if stock prices would finish the day with some moderate gains.

But in the final half-hour, prices dropped sharply. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 63.69 points, or about 0.5 percent, to close at 12,050.41. The broader Standard & Poor's 500-stock index fared even worse, losing 13.05 points, or about 1 percent, to close at 1,374.12.

Cheney Treated For Blood Clot After Global Trip

By Sheryl Gay Stolberg
and Lawrence K. Altman

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Vice President Dick Cheney was treated Monday for a blood clot in his left leg that independent experts said was probably not related to his history of heart disease but rather the result of his recent around-the-world trip, which included 65 hours of plane travel over nine days.

Cheney's office said the vice president experienced "mild calf discomfort" Monday after delivering a late morning speech to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and visited his doctor's office at George Washington University.

An ultrasound revealed a deep venous thrombosis, a blood clot, in the lower portion of his left leg. He was treated with anti-coagulant medication, which he will take for several months, and he returned to work. Although blood clots in the leg can be dangerous if left untreated, experts say most are successfully treated with the anti-coagulant drugs that the White House says Cheney is now receiving.

A key determinant in treating blood clots in the leg is the size of the clot, which a statement Monday from Cheney's office did not describe. Nor did the statement give the clot's specific anatomical location.

Failure in New Computer Diverts Air Traffic

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

A failure in one of the Federal Aviation Administration's newest air traffic computers early Monday morning forced controllers to hold airliners on the ground, send others on detours over hundreds of miles and put two into holding patterns over the ocean near Bermuda, an unusual procedure for intercontinental flights.

The system handles airplanes over water, beyond the range of land-based radar. It receives position reports relayed by satellite, and is supposed to allow planes to fly closer to one another while still assuring that they are safe from collision.

About 1 a.m. on Monday the system began to indicate that numerous airplanes were on paths that would bring them too close. Controllers say that the system occasionally generates such messages erroneously, and that this can be corrected by deleting a plane from the system and re-entering it. That procedure, however, takes three to five minutes and is hard to do for more than one plane at a time.

Arctic Blast

By Scott Stransky
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

The high temperature on Saturday was 57°F (14°C), yet today's high will be below 20°F (-7°C)!

There is a large, deep area of high pressure to our west (over the Great Lakes). Because we live on a rotating planet, air flows clockwise around high pressure systems. Therefore, today's airflow is predominantly from the north. Air advecting from the north tends to be cold, since it is coming from the Arctic region.

High pressure also leads to a clear sky. In a high, air is "subsiding," or sinking, towards the ground. Due to adiabatic heating, cloud droplets are evaporated very quickly. We can also expect a very windy day. Wind speed is, in part, determined by the gradient of the isolines of pressure (isobars). When the isobars are very close, as in today's situation, wind speeds are high.

Luckily for us (unless you enjoy the cold), the high pressure will rapidly move eastward over the next day. Tomorrow's high temperature should be about 10 degrees warmer than today, as the northerly winds die down and there is less cold air advection.

Extended Forecast

Today: Bitterly cold, windy, and sunny. High 17°F (-8°C).
Tonight: Bitterly cold, windy, and clear. Low 8°F (-13°C).
Tomorrow: Some clouds. High 26°F (-3°C).
Tomorrow night: Some clouds. Low 14°F (-10°C).
Thursday: A few clouds. High 26°F (-3°C).
Thursday night: Clear. Low 17°F (-8°C).

Afghans Say US Strike Killed Nine Family Members Sunday

By Carlotta Gall
and Abdul Waheed Wafa

THE NEW YORK TIMES

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

Nine members of a family, including five women and three children, were killed in an American airstrike in central Afghanistan late Sunday, during a battle with militants, Afghan officials said Monday.

The American military acknowledged that it dropped two 2,000-pound bombs on a compound on Sunday night, but said that it could not confirm the casualties.

The strike occurred 12 hours after American forces in eastern Afghanistan fired on civilians following a suicide car bombing next to an American convoy. The American fire killed at least 10 people and wounded 25, Afghan officials said. In response, protests on Sunday blocked the main highway in the area.

On Sunday night, American forces at a small base in Tapah Ahmed Beg, in Kapisa province, northeast of the capital, Kabul, came under rocket fire at 9 p.m., the U.S. military said in a statement. When two men with Kalashnikov rifles were spotted entering a compound, the

Americans called an airstrike on the compound, which ended the engagement, it said.

"Coalition forces observed two men with AK-47s leaving the scene of the rocket attack and entering the compound," Lt. Col. David Accetta, a military spokesman, said in the statement. "These men knowingly endangered civilians by retreating into a populated area while conducting attacks against coalition forces."

"We did this in self-defense," said Gen. Muhammad Ewaz Masloom, the police chief of Kapisa province, whose men work beside Americans at the base. "The enemy of Afghanistan is trying to use different tactics to destroy the peace and stability in our area, especially in the districts of Tagab and Nejarab, and they have repeatedly attacked our bases."

He said that members of the Islamic Party, which is led by the renegade mujahedeen commander Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, and Taliban supporters were active in the area.

But a local representative of the provincial council, Suraya Bahadur, who comes from Nejarab district, where the bombing happened, con-

demned it. "I condemned both the suicide attacks and the rocket attacks by the enemy of Afghanistan, and also I condemn these type of mistakes," by American and NATO forces, she said. "We never want our civilian people to be killed."

John Sifton, a senior researcher at Human Rights Watch, which is based in New York, also expressed concern about the level of force. "That is heavy firepower to respond to two men, even if they have Kalashnikovs," he said in a telephone interview. "If that version of events bears up, it would strongly suggest that the attack was disproportionate." Sifton said insurgents also regularly violate the rules of war by using force near civilian areas.

On Monday, President Hamid Karzai condemned the killing of the civilians in eastern Afghanistan on Sunday morning. He blamed the "enemies of Afghanistan" for the suicide bombing, which "caused the American forces to fire on civilian people and demonstrators that killed 10 people." He ordered a government delegation to the scene to investigate with the American military.

UN Agency Suspends Work With North Korea, Curtails Programs

By Warren Hoge

THE NEW YORK TIMES

UNITED NATIONS

The U.N. Development Program said Monday it was suspending work in North Korea because the country had failed to meet conditions set up in response to American complaints that U.N. money was being diverted to the government of Kim Jong Il.

"We have decided to suspend our operations, and the ball is really now in the court of the DPRK Korean authorities," said David Morrison, director of communications for the agency, referring to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the country's official name.

The decision, which curtails 20 programs with a budget of \$4.4 million, was made Friday, a day after Pak Gil Yon, the North Korean ambassador to the U.N., met with Ad Melkert, the development

program's associate director, to say that his country would not agree to new conditions for assistance.

Those conditions were that the U.N. would stop furnishing payments in hard currency to the government, local vendors and individuals, and stop making in-country hires subject to government approval.

The demands, along with a March 1 deadline, were imposed by the development program's executive board on Jan. 25 after the U.S. mission charged that the U.N. program had been "systematically perverted for the benefit of the Kim Jong Il regime rather than the people of North Korea."

Morrison said there was no connection between the announcement and the beginning on Monday, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, of two days of talks between North Korea,

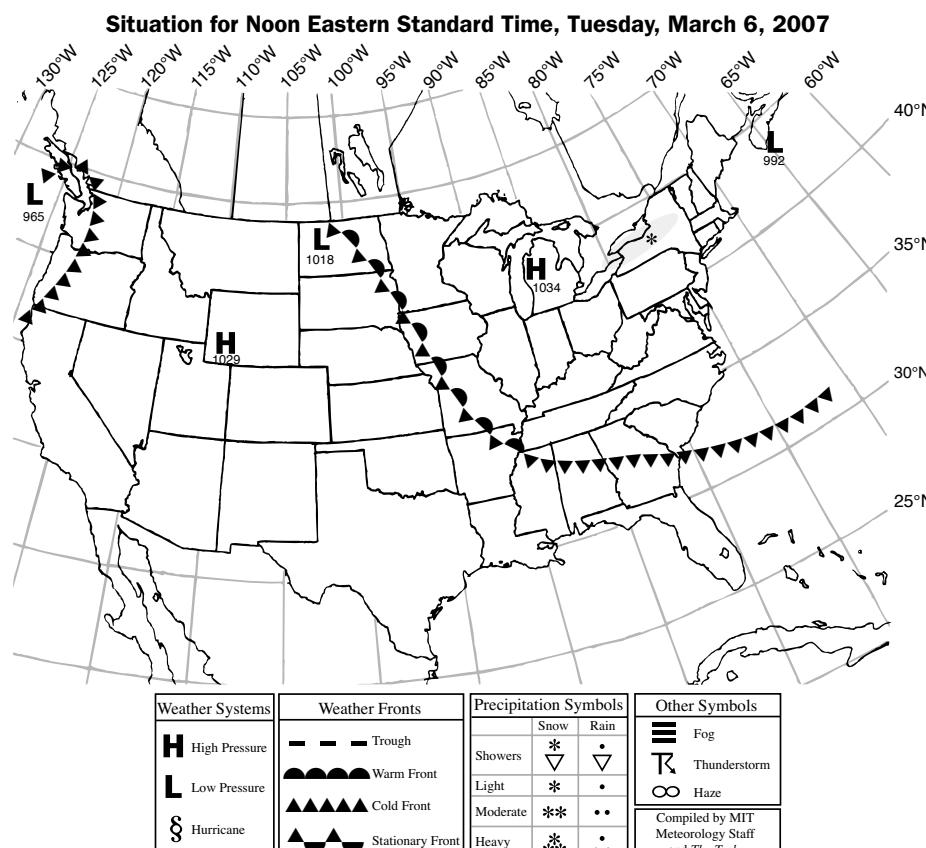
represented by Kim Kye Gwan, and the U.S., represented by Christopher R. Hill, the assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, on the North Korean nuclear program.

"The timing was driven by our undertaking as made explicit in the board decision of the 25th of January to only continue our operations in the DPRK if certain conditions were met by March 1, which was Thursday," he said.

The development program also said in January that it was narrowing its program to what Morrison said were "activities designed more directly to benefit the North Korean people rather than to build capacity of the North Korean government."

Morrison said the North Koreans responded that this action "represented a politicization of the foreign assistance process."

WEATHER



Bomb Kills at Least Twenty in Famed Baghdad Book Market

By Edward Wong
and Wissam A. Habeeb
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

The book market along Mutanabi Street was a throwback to the Baghdad of old, the days of students browsing for texts, turbaned clerics hunting down religious tomes and cafe intellectuals debating politics over backgammon.

Somewhat it had survived the war, until Monday, when a powerful suicide car bomb hit the market, slicing through the heart of the capital's intellectual scene. It killed at least 20 people and wounded more than 65.

In the hours after the noontime explosion, books and stationery, some still tied in charred bundles, littered the block. Plumes of black smoke billowed above ornate buildings dating to the Ottoman Empire. The storied Shahbandar cafe, where elderly writers puffed away the afternoon on water pipes, lay in ruins.

Firefighters unleashed powerful sprays of water, only to have flames reignite because the paper had been transformed into kindling.

This part of Baghdad dates back centuries, to the era when the Abbasid caliphate ruled over the Islamic world. On Monday, victims lacerated by shrapnel were carried over shards of glass here to waiting ambulances.

"There are no Americans or Iraqi politicians here — there are only Iraqi intellectuals who represent themselves and their homeland, plus stationery and book dealers," said Abdul Baqi Faizullah, 61, a poet who frequently visits the street. "Those who did this are like savage machines intent on harvesting souls and killing all bright minds."

The bombing was the latest of a half-dozen major blasts aimed at civilians in the capital in the three weeks since the Iraqi government and American military announced the start of a new Baghdad security plan. The number of gunshot killings attributed to sectarian death squads appears to have dropped — militia leaders have ordered their followers to lie low. But deadly bombings have continued with ferocity.

American officials have said they are still struggling to tamp down on the bombings, and intend to bring in thousands of additional troops into Baghdad over the next two months.

Iranian Authorities Arrest Women After Protests Outside Courtroom

By Nazila Fathi
THE NEW YORK TIMES

TEHRAN, IRAN

Iranian authorities arrested 33 women on Sunday after protests outside a court where five of the women were being tried for leading a campaign to gain more legal rights for women, newspapers reported Monday.

The five women were put on trial after they organized a demonstration for women's rights last June, the ILNA news agency reported. The agency said that the women had been charged with endangering national security, propagating against the government, and taking part in illegal gatherings.

The arrests on Sunday were part

of a crackdown against female activists and protests in general since President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad came to power in 2005.

Authorities broke up last June's demonstration and arrested 70 people. The five organizers now on trial are: Noushin Ahmadi Khorassani, Parvin Aradalan, Shahla Entesari, Soosan Tahmassebi, and Fariba Davoudi Mohajer.

The five women, who have not been in custody, were arrested on Sunday after they left the court. The daily newspaper Etemad Melli reported Monday that all 33 of the women were taken to the notorious Evin prison, which has the largest number of political prisoners in the country and

where many prisoners say they have been tortured.

Women have been pursuing two major campaigns since last year. One calls on authorities to change a law that permits stoning women to death if they are convicted of adultery. The other is an ambitious project to collect a million signatures for a petition that calls on authorities to change discriminatory laws toward women.

Iran's laws codify traditions that place little value on a woman's life and give slight credence to women's opinions. For instance, a woman's testimony in court is worth half that of a man and, if a woman is killed, the compensation due her family is also half that required for a man's death.

GOP Shift Is Seen to Secure Three Trade Deals

By Steven R. Weisman
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

When the Democrats swept to victory last fall, after a campaign fueled partly by attacks on President Bush's trade policies, trade deals promoted by the administration seemed doomed in the new Congress. But that was then.

In the last week, the administration and its Republican allies on Capitol Hill have signaled a new willingness to work with Democrats to try to secure their support for three pending trade deals — with Panama, Peru and Colombia. The focus of their talks has been guarantees for the rights of workers in countries with which the U.S. has negotiated trade accords, including a ban on child labor.

"There's no question that there's been a change on the Republican side," Rep. Charles B. Rangel, D-N.Y., who is chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said Monday. "They refused to talk about these things before, and now they're talking."

But it is still not clear how Democrats will respond. Rangel said they remained highly skeptical about signs of Republican flexibility on trade and that he had not seen anything "acceptable to a broad number of members" on his side.

Alaskan Bridge Projects Resist Pork-Barrel Purge

By William Yardley
THE NEW YORK TIMES

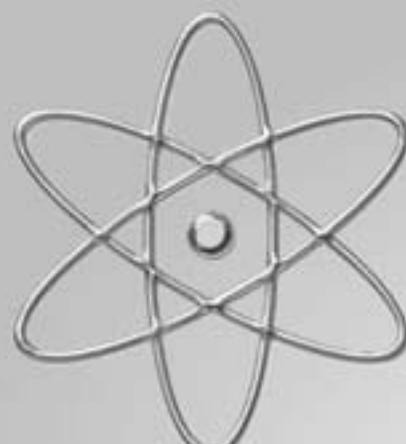
Long after Congress removed about \$450 million in budget earmarks for two bridges in the Alaskan exurbs, the fight over whether to build them is not dead.

Mocked as "bridges to nowhere" by critics who saw them as the epitome of congressional excess, the projects have been slowly moving forward even as big questions remain about whether the bridges will be built.

When Congress removed the earmarks for the bridges in 2005, it still gave the state the money, but it allowed Alaskan officials to decide how to spend it. The state reserved about \$200 million for the proposed bridges, far less than the construction costs but enough to show that there was serious intent to complete the projects. Some environmental and planning studies have already been conducted.

Supporters of one of the bridges, the Knik Arm Crossing, are expected to get the proposal included in Anchorage's long-range city transportation plan in April.

The agency charged with building the bridge, a private-public partnership, is courting private investors for a toll-driven, for-profit venture. If built, the Knik bridge — which has been discussed since before statehood in 1959 — could cost about \$1 billion beyond the approximately \$110 million the project has received from Congress.



THE FUTURE OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGIES A FOUR-PART SERIES

BOMB SCARE: THE HISTORY AND FUTURE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Joseph Cirincione
Senior Vice President, Center for American Progress

Thursday, February 22, 2007
7pm in 6-120

ATOMS FOR HEALTH & WELFARE: DIVERSE APPLICATIONS OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY

Ian Hutchinson
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Moderator: David Kaiser
Program in Science, Technology and Society, MIT

Thursday, March 8, 2007 • 7pm in 32-141 (note new location)

THE FUTURE OF NUCLEAR POWER

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Andrew Kadak
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Victor Reis
Office of the Secretary,
US Department of Energy

Moderator: John Durant
MIT Museum

Thursday, March 1, 2007
7pm in 6-120

CAN NUCLEAR ENERGY AND NON-PROLIFERATION CO-EXIST?

Geoff Forden
Science, Technology and Global Security Working Group, STS, MIT

Matthew Bunn
Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard University

Marvin Miller
Center for International Studies, MIT

Moderator: Owen Cote
Center for International Studies, MIT

Thursday, March 15, 2007 • 7pm in 32-141 (note new location)



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Corrections

Because of an editing error, a March 2 letter from Noel Elman, PhD ran under the headline "MIT Complicit in Holocaust Denial," which conveys misleading impressions of the author's opinions; the headline should have been, "MIT Allows Disgraceful Forum Speakers."

The March 2 "In Short" section mistakenly reported that the new MacVicar Faculty Fellows would be announced after a roundtable discussion Friday afternoon. The fellows were actually announced earlier in the day, at a luncheon.

Letters To The Editor

Defend Free Speech, Not Academic Dishonesty

Ali S. Wyne's Feb. 27 opinion article, "Defending Free Speech at MIT," misses the point made by numerous students and alumni who protested the event "Foreign Policy and Social Justice: A Jewish View, A Muslim View." Mr. Wyne states that "we cannot claim to support free speech if we only invite individuals whose views fall within an acceptable continuum." While it is true that David Weiss' views fall far outside the views of any member of the MIT Jewish community — and indeed more than 99 percent of the world's Jewish population—that is not the reason for opposition to Weiss speaking at the event. The MIT Jewish community so greatly opposed Weiss because he was brought under the guise of presenting a Jewish view, not the skewed, radical view he presented that is condemned by nearly every sect of Judaism worldwide.

At MIT, freedom of speech must be protected and honored, but so must academic honesty. Mr. Weiss most certainly has the right to speak at MIT, but it is wrong and an insult to Jews everywhere to present him as presenting a Jewish view. In fact, it's not just wrong, it's simply dishonest. Mr. Wyne writes, "Falsehood is a far better lubricant for our mind's engines than truth, for it compels us to remain ever vigilant." This statement embodies the danger Weiss poses. At the event, Jews present knew the falsehoods in what he was saying, but many others in attendance did not. Speaking with other students following the event, it became clear that Weiss had succeeded at imparting his view as a credible Jewish view. It is not the fault of the students for thinking this way, but it is the fault of MIT for sponsoring such a speaker under such a pretense.

There are two simple analogies to bringing Weiss to MIT to present a Jewish view that show where the line between freedom of speech

and academic dishonesty is crossed. First, consider the Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan being brought by MIT to speak as a representative of Christian values. Sure, students who know about the KKK know that this is ridiculous, but those who are not informed may very well be fooled. Secondly, consider a suicide bomber being brought to represent mainstream Islam. Many students at MIT are unfamiliar with Islam and could easily be fooled by his rhetoric, no matter how out of line it is with the real mainstream Islamic views. This is how the Jewish community felt when Weiss was brought to speak at MIT as a representative of Judaism. It was an insult and MIT, specifically the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, should be ashamed to have sponsored such an event.

Jeremy B. Katz '09

Responses to Controversial Forum Are Misleading

While I am gratified to see that last month's forum, "Foreign Policy and Social Justice: A Jewish View, A Muslim View," has elicited such vigorous discussion and debate, I feel compelled to respond to several items that have appeared in the past three issues of *The Tech*:

1. Rabbi Weiss does not deny the Holocaust. His grandparents perished in Auschwitz, as did many of his aunts and uncles. While *The Tech* noted this fact in the "Corrections" section of its March 2 issue, I am disappointed that the author of the news story in question, "Forum Features Controversial Speakers," did not exercise greater care with her language.

2. While the rabbi's views on the Holocaust and the Arab-Israeli conflict are diametrically opposed to those of mainstream Jews, they do represent a Jewish view. The "Institute Wisdom Watch" section of *The Tech*'s Feb. 27 issue discounted this fact.

3. No members of the Forum on American

Progress (FAP) were involved with the selection of the speakers. It was not until after the speakers and the event date had been finalized that FAP's Executive Board was approached. Furthermore, the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS) was not approached until after FAP had become a co-sponsor, meaning that no member of SHASS played a role in selecting Rabbi Weiss or Imam al-Asi to visit MIT. Clarifying this chronology is not an attempt to attribute greater or less responsibility to any of the involved parties, but rather, an attempt to present crucial context.

4. The event organizers and co-sponsors did seek the opinions of Jewish, Muslim, and Christian student groups before the forum took place, contrary to the paid advertisement that appeared in the Feb. 23 issue of *The Tech* ("Dishonest Portrayal Undermines Dialogue"). Several members of the Jewish community were particularly vocal in airing their concerns about last Thursday's forum. In response, the event's title was changed, and it was agreed that the rabbi would be introduced in a manner that illuminates the rarity of his viewpoints. He was never branded as an "ambassador of the Jewish faith." Furthermore, we offered (and continue to offer) to co-sponsor events that feature more mainstream religious figures; encouraged (and continue to encourage) the publication of their advertisements, letters, opinion pieces, and petitions in *The Tech*; and otherwise invited (and continue to invite) them to join us in nurturing interfaith and political dialogue at MIT.

5. The co-sponsors' sole motivation was to facilitate vigorous discussion of an important set of issues. FAP and SHASS did not co-sponsor Rabbi Weiss or Imam al-Asi because we espouse their viewpoints. Indeed, I fiercely disagree with most of their arguments: Rabbi Weiss's wish to see Israel dismantled and Imam al-Asi's crude anti-Semitism are alarming. The imam's sentiments, in particular, should disturb everyone at MIT. Sadly, anti-Semitism is a real phenomenon the world over, and we can understand it by confronting it directly; this forum offered MIT students precisely this opportunity. I am not in a position to assess the motivations of the Social Justice Cooperative, which approached and confirmed the appearance of the rabbi and imam.

6. At the beginning of their Feb. 27 letter to the editor, several MIT alumni claim that the event organizers and co-sponsors "abused their academic right to free speech to spread horrible lies." They repeat this argument near the end, saying that we "abuse[d] [our] freedom of speech to spread serious misunderstandings to the broader community." These strident accusations recall perhaps the most fundamental value of educational institutions: Everyone is entitled to free speech. Event organizers and co-sponsors should never have to defend this proposition. One cannot properly form one's own opinions if one is not permitted to objectively appraise arguments in support of and in opposition to a given stance. It is the most radical and trying views that help us to challenge and mold our own belief systems.

Indeed, as MIT students, we have chosen to learn in one of the world's most rigorous academic environments to grow and test ourselves as greatly as possible.

Raffaela Wakeman '08
Vice-President of Forum on American Progress

Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Michael McGraw-Herdeg, Editor in Chief Marie Y. Thibault, Managing Editor Austin Chu, Executive Editor Rosa Cao, and Opinion Editors Barun Singh and Aditya Kohli.

Dissenters are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted.

The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community and have the author's name in italics. Columns without italics are written by *Tech* staff.

To Reach Us

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CAMPUS LIFE

Imminent Collapse

I See Dumb People

By Bill Andrews
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

Since we are so deep in the midst of term, I consider it my duty to help inform some of my less-fortunate (ie, course VI) friends about what's been happening in the world lately. I mean, when you've been coding and debugging for eighteen hours straight, looking for that one parenthesis you missed, or whatever the heck you do, the larger things that go on in the world just might not seem that interesting.

There's been a lot of stuff that went on, too. We had the Oscars recently, which went the way everyone expected except for the few awards that didn't (quoth my fiancée, "Melissa Etheridge!"). Amidst crazy scandals, some high-up government official ended up stepping down (again): the Secretary of the Army "resigned" over the poor treatment soldiers were getting at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Also, it's already March. When tf did that happen?

But, perhaps the most significant development in the past week or two has been the airing of a TV show called, "Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?" In my head, I call it, "Are You a Dumbass?" The show's website (<http://www.fox.com/areyousmarter/>) says "every

question is from a grade school textbook and the answers are elementary," and I can personally vouch for its watchability. Basically, it's like "Who wants to be a millionaire," only you can get help by 'copying' or 'cheating' off an actual, real-life fifth grader. If you get all the questions right, which come in such categories as "fourth grade math" or "first grade geography," I think you win a million bucks. I'm not sure, see, because nobody's done it yet. Hence what I call it in my head.

Now, if you think about it, this show is a pretty brilliant idea. It combines the game-show fun of "Jeopardy" and "Millionaire," the humiliation of "Fear Factor" and "Millionaire" (admit it, you saw at least one episode where Regis was shocked the contestant got it wrong), and the humor of "Weakest Link" and "Beauty and the Geek." And, on top of all that, the final insult to the contestant's intelligence: it's hosted by Jeff Foxworthy! (Disclaimer: I don't actually think Foxworthy's dumb, or a dumbass. I mean, he was smart enough to do this show, after all. I just think he projects the aura of dumbass with a certain deftness that few others could pull off.)

I am thus, in my current capacity as a Cam-

pus Life writer (and not an Arts reviewer) recommending you watch this show. It'll lift your spirits, make you feel smart again (something we could all use here@mit.edu), entertain you, and, above all, shock you. Some people are really, really big dumbasses. There was an American history professor contestant, for instance, who was stumped by the question from the "fifth grade history" category: "who was the first president to be impeached?" Now, immediately I knew the answer was Andrew Johnson, but that's only because I'm course 21 and thus know something besides math and science; you might have known it too, actually, but it isn't that important if you didn't. What is important is that this American history professor didn't know such a basic question about American history. And, of course, all the fifth graders on the show (there's about eight of them) knew the right answer, making this prof look even dumber. Man, what a dumbass.

The thing is, though, these kids are pretty damn good. There have been some tricky questions asked, such as the above random history or the following "third grade astronomy" question: "What constellation is the Big Dipper a part of?" Now, okay, we all know (perhaps af-

ter a quick Google search) the answer is Ursa Major or the Great Bear, but I think it just a bit suspicious that every single fifth grader knew the right answer to this, as well as every single other question ever asked. I mean, sure, the questions could have been lifted from these kids' last exams or something, but even still it's a bit fishy.

One look at the show's message boards, however, brings me back to my senses. Yes, there are some saying, "This show's a fake!" But there are also others saying, "There was no president Andrew Johnson!" The right answer is Andrew Jackson!!" and "OMG, your so right, Andrew Johnson is a conspiracy!!" And seeing those reminded me of the true value of this show: it doesn't really matter if it's scripted or not, or if the kids have been prepped or not; what matters is that this show entertains, and that there really are some dumb people out there.

And if there's anything that FOX has taught me, it's that there's nothing more American than laughing at and feeling superior to those who are dumber than you. Unless he happens to be the President of the United States, of course.

Scott's Travels

A Night on the Town

By James Scott Berdahl

I have the great fortune of being able to begin this week's column in the same way as I began last week's column, as once again I found myself cold and alone in the streets of Moscow, only this time it was in the middle of the night. My companion Oscar, who happened to have the only key to the apartment complex in which we were staying, had failed to meet me as planned, and so I found myself wandering the large section of city between the bar where we were supposed to meet, and our apartment complex.

The streets of Moscow at night are a little scary. At one point a scruffy man jumped out in front of me, shouting in Russian and gesturing threateningly. I kept my head down, made a wide radius around him and kept walking. Needless to say, he wasn't exactly thrilled about this, but he must have been too drunk to do anything about it. As I continued on, his shouts faded into the distance. A little bit later, a shadowy figure up ahead on the opposite side of the street saw me and jogged over to meet me. There'd be no avoiding him. We exchanged pleasantries, and before long he was yelling and had grabbed hold of my arm, pulling my

sleeves back to examine my bare wrists. He seemed disappointed and stomped off furiously. I'm still not sure exactly what happened there; either he was hoping for a Rolex or he was just really enthused about the prospect of finding out what time it was.

At any rate, I decided the safest thing to do would be to lie low somewhere and wait for the morning. I found an adequate park bench on Chystoprudny, a treed boulevard near the apartment complex, and settled in. Every once in a while footsteps would pass by in the darkness, and I'd listen intently as they gradually died away. I fashioned a thin newspaper blanket and huddled under it for warmth, but I couldn't fall asleep. Two more sets of footsteps approached, their owners talking loudly. They passed by, and I listened for them to die out, but about ten steps past me the footsteps stopped. The loud talking turned to an exchange of quiet whispers, and then the footsteps began again, softly and in my direction. Bad news.

I knew I had only a second to act; I could get up and run for my life or stay and try to negotiate my way through it ... in Russian. Before I could decide though, a hand shook me. Negotiation it was. I sat up and looked at them;

they were two kids about my age. "Щазий яофт?" one of them asked. I shifted, reaching into my back pocket, and both of them tensed. I tensed in response, looked at both of them, and then proceeded to pull out my Russian phrasebook. All three of us gave a sigh of relief. After much handing back and forth of the phrasebook and some impromptu theatrics, we finally established that they were selling marijuana.

"Nyet," I replied, and they seemed to understand. I was relieved, and looking forward to trying to sleep again, but then one of them took the phrasebook and leafed through it. Handing it back in frustration, he paused thoughtfully, and then mimed the action of putting a syringe into his arm, followed by a questioning shrug. Oh, well thank you. I didn't want weed, but some heroin would really hit the spot right now.

"Nyet," I replied again, but this time they weren't as understanding. "Юушъон допская!" they shouted angrily, among other things. I managed to calm them some, and after another twenty or so minutes with the phrasebook, I told them I'd love to buy their drugs, but my wallet was in the apartment and so I couldn't buy any until later on. They seemed satisfied and gave me their phone number before leav-

ing on good terms. I was just thankful they didn't think to check my pockets.

I managed to doze off for a bit, and when I woke up it was beginning to get light out. I looked around; the park was a mess. Garbage, newspapers, and bottles were strewn about, literally everywhere. There were still some small clusters of people drinking in a few places. In the morning light, I began to see the city's alcoholism for what it really was: not a nonstop, lifelong party, but rather a societal disease, reminiscent of a turbulent past and impeding progress towards a better future.

This revelation was driven home when I got up to explore the park. A few benches down from mine, a man had passed out awkwardly on his side, his arms spread out wildly and his legs twisted down as though he was sitting upright. 'Man, he'll feel that in the morning,' I thought to myself. As I drew closer, a fierce stench hit my nostrils. Dried vomit ran from within the man's mouth, down the bench and into a puddle on the ground. His skin was pale purple and bloated. His eyes were half open slits, waxy and still. No, he wouldn't be feeling anything in the morning after all. He was dead.

Call for Nominations 2007 Student Art Awards

LAYA and JEROME B. WIESNER STUDENT ART AWARDS

The Laya and Jerome B. Wiesner Student Art Awards are presented annually to up to three students (undergraduate or graduate), living groups, organizations or activities for outstanding achievement in and contributions to the arts at MIT. Established in 1979, these awards honor President Emeritus Wiesner and Mrs. Wiesner for their commitment to the arts at MIT. An endowment fund provides a \$1,250 honorarium to each recipient.

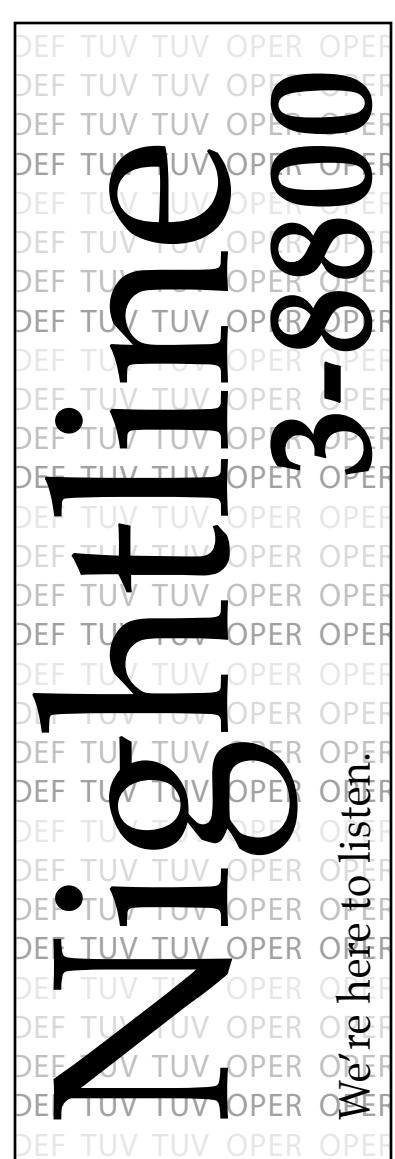
<http://web.mit.edu/arts/about/awards/wiesner.html>

LOUIS SUDLER PRIZE IN THE ARTS

The Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts is presented annually to a graduating senior who has demonstrated excellence or the highest standards of proficiency in music, theater, painting, sculpture, design, architecture or film. The Prize was established in 1982 by Mr. Sudler, a performer in the arts and an arts patron from Chicago. An endowment fund provides a \$1,250 award to the honoree.

<http://web.mit.edu/arts/about/awards/sudler.html>

Please send nominating letters (by email or campus mail) by Friday March 23, 2007 to:
Susan Cohen, Director, Council for the Arts at MIT- E15-205
cohen@media.mit.edu



Babblefish

Don't Worry, Be Happy. Or ... You Can Complain

By Tuan Huynh

How many of you recall your very first semester at MIT? I'm sure you can't forget it; you know, that one time long ago when you put minimal effort into your classes and ended up passing with that obscure letter P. Man, wasn't pass/no record great? My young self thought naively at the time, "This place isn't all that bad. MIT is a pretty darn fun place. People shouldn't be complaining so much. All this complaining just coalesces into a negative stereotype of this place." That is, to outsiders all we do is work and work. Yeah right ... I laughed, and laughed some more when thinking about the truth. Then that fateful day came: second semester started.

Maybe I would be exaggerating just a little bit if I said reality came crashing down on me. I mean, I knew I would have to work when I made the decision to go to college. But ... not this much. Who the heck spends hours and hours on end working and studying?! (On the weekends, too!) Mind you, I'm not including those crazy pre-med students. I kind of feel for them,

but not really ... I'm sure they must somehow like all that work. I am, however, no pre-med.

Recently, the '09 class released its Brass Rat design, which features Kerberos guarding the school. I'm 99.9 percent sure that it isn't a coincidence that the three-headed dog, Kerberos, also guards the gates of Hell. It just so happens that Kerberos is also the name of the network authentication protocol MIT uses. You know your Kerberos ID – the one you use to obtain your personal certificate, log onto an Athena cluster computer, or whatever it is you need to do through MIT's network. All of these allusions to Hell corroborate well with my second semester experience thus far.

One day, I caught myself complaining to a high school friend about the workload. Yes, that same grievance I had earlier, which propagates a bad image of this place (let me take a moment to say that hypocrisy is a natural human characteristic). Anyway, he said he wants to come here for college. I told him he's crazy. All of a sudden, he called us half-gods, being capable of doing just about anything. I scoffed.

Sure, a compliment is nice and all, but we're hardly divine. It seems to me that the more time you spend here, the more incapable of anything you find yourself. Then I complained some more by giving an anecdote of a really bad day. He responded that even though a lot of MIT students complained, we enjoyed the intensity that is MIT.

I thought about what my friend said for a bit. Do we really enjoy this agony? Are we all out-of-our-minds-masochistic? I don't know about you, but in high school I was pretty complacent. High school was easy. High school didn't provide the unique intensity we all come to "appreciate" here. I admit, though, I do sort of like it. It's definitely a love-hate relationship. IHFP can be an acronym for two statements, which expresses this relationship well. You really can't compare high school with MIT, can you?

About two weeks ago, I was working almost nonstop for an entire day, operating only on two hours of sleep. When my day was over, I was relieved. I rushed back to my dorm to

catch up on sleep when I saw people do what I call shoe-skating near the Student Center. On Valentine's Day, the sky had poured snow and rain simultaneously. The layer of water froze over the next few days, and people used the ice for their entertainment.

So, this is how shoe-skating is done: first you run on the ice, and then you stop suddenly to slide. Simple, isn't it? I joined these people, only to fall many times. I was pretty bad, and a friend commented that I was getting wiped. The ice was hard, almost like asphalt, and the impact of all those falls made me terribly sore the next day. Not to mention that my glasses were in danger of being crushed each time I fell. They would fly yards away, and then slide happily on the ice like I did. It was amusingly random. You may wonder though, why didn't I go straight to sleep?

We work hard. But we know when to play hard too. MIT is a pretty darn fun place. And when the workload gets to be too much, do what everyone else does: just complain away your problems.

Not Your Mom's TV Dinner

Or, How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Microwave

By Janet S. Lieberman

Shortly after getting food poisoning on a day when I'd bought all my food on campus and long after deciding I hated cooking for just myself, my level of knowledge about the dark world of frozen and microwavable food began to skyrocket. One day when I was in a group looking at the frozen food options in LaVerde's while trying to improvise dinner in the half-hour break between rehearsals, I impressed some friends with my knowledge of what you were or weren't going to regret putting in your mouth. One even suggested that these skills could have a humanitarian bent, rather than just being kinda sad. Thus this column was born.

Full meals in trays

"Full meals in trays" seems like your first basic category of frozen food. By this I mean the thin rectangular boxes with black trays,

often split into nifty food sections, which make up the backbone of the frozen dinner market.

General ground rule of frozen food: Stouffer's is better. Between Lean Cuisine, Smart Ones, and Healthy Choice, the Stouffer's brand (Lean Cuisine) will almost always have the tastier version of any particular dish. Therefore, they shall be what I discuss today.

I normally get the Lean Cuisine with some vague pretense of eating healthy, but I really can't tell the difference between it and the regular Stouffer's brand, so what basic guidelines apply to one also apply to the other. Within either, my favorites are always the basic poultries: Baked Chicken, Glazed Chicken, Roast Turkey, Glazed Turkey Tenderloins, Herb Roasted Chicken, and other such dishes. The meat is always good; the vegetables are generally pretty good. If they have mashed potatoes,

make sure to mix them well if there's a mixing step, even if that means breaking up a still frozen middle, because that's what's most likely to not get heated up all the way and therefore be less enjoyable. A basic beef dish like the Salisbury Steak is fine, though nothing special, and kinda like eating a slightly seasoned hamburger. Of course, sometimes that's what you're in the mood for.

Your "some variety of Asian" chicken dishes tend to be okay too, though the sauces also tend to get old fast, and they all vaguely resemble each other. They're a lot better than they were, say, ten years ago, but if you had them then, these'll probably remind you of their previous incarnations, and somewhat unpleasantly so.

Chicken Fettuccine is a little bland but otherwise fine. Chicken Enchilada was not my favorite. In general, things get sketchier as they get more creative; I've had a truly abysmal Pork with Cherry Sauce. But really, why on earth would I think that was going to turn out well to begin with?

Stouffer's individual

lasagnas are also quite excellent. I usually go with the meat one, but the other day I grabbed a four cheese one by accident, and didn't notice until I started eating it. This wasn't a personal tragedy, and to translate from carnivorese, means it was good.

I also sometimes get Kid Cuisine, which is generally pretty good, but has a tendency to have way more steps in prep, like taking stuff out and putting stuff back in; seriously, if you're already eating frozen food, you're probably not in the mood to do several steps. Also, don't get too excited over the desserts.

Another occasional buy is the Boston Market Turkey Dinner, because that's rather tasty.

I've only recently tried a Hungryman dish, despite the awesome name and simple entrees. The results of the experiment were mixed — the chicken was very good, the corn was normal good, and the mashed potatoes had none of the consistency or heating problems they sometimes have with other brands, but also none of the taste.

So, in summary, Stouffer's good, simple good, poultry good, ambitious bad. And I know you're just counting down the days until the third and last installment of this series.

Made possible by the Council for the Arts at MIT

Free tickets for MIT students!

BOSTON MODERN ORCHESTRA PROJECT

French Counterpoints

Friday, March 9, 2007 at 8pm

Jordan Hall at New England Conservatory, Gainsborough Street, Boston

Betsy Jolas	Jour B (B Day) (2006)	World Premiere commissioned by BMOP
Pascal Dusapin	Galim (1998)	
Pascal Dusapin	Coda (1992)	
Bruno Mantovani	Le Sette Chiese (2002)	

<http://www.bmop.org>

BOSTON SECESSION

Surprised by Beauty: Minimalism in Choral Music

Rare Live Performance of Modern Masterpieces

Friday, March 16, 2007 at 8pm (Including post-concert Q&A)

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, 11 Garden Street, Harvard Square, Cambridge

William Duckworth	Southern Harmony (1981)
Arvo Pärt	The Beatitudes (1990)
Gavin Bryars	And so ended Kant's traveling in this world (1997)
Ruth Lomon's	"Transport," from her oratorio-in-progress, Testimony of Witnesses

<http://www.bostonsecession.org>

BOSTON CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

Sunday, March 25, 2007 at 7:30pm

Sanders Theatre, Harvard University, 45 Quincy Street, Cambridge

Schumann	Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 110
Ned Rorem	Trio for Flute, Cello and Piano (1960)
Brahms	Clarinet Quintet in B minor, Op. 115

<http://www.bostonchambermusic.org>

Tickets available at the MIT Office of the Arts (E15-205) Monday - Friday, 10am - 4pm in person, first-come, first-served only. 2 tickets per MIT student ID

<http://web.mit.edu/arts/see/freetickets/index.html>

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MIT has a Chaplain to the Institute?

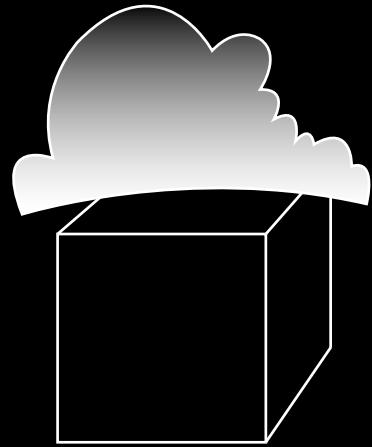
What's that?

Come find out and tell us what you think it should be!

Thursdays, March 8th & 15th
12:00 – 1:30pm
W20-CoffeeHouse (3rd Floor)

Bring your lunch and talk with Dean Robert Randolph about what a Chaplain to the Institute should do.

If you can't come, email your comments and ideas to randolph@mit.edu

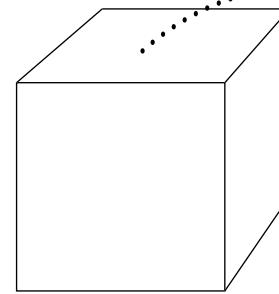


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It's smart to reach out.



SUMA Elections Study Break

SUMA is currently seeking talented new members to serve on the Executive Board.

Please email candidacy declarations for a maximum of 2 positions by Wednesday, March 7th to kshcho@mit.edu

The Following Positions are available:

Director of Finance
Director of External Relations
Director of Marketing
Director of Internal Operations
'08 and '09 Class Representatives

**Please Submit Candidacy declarations by
Wednesday, March 7th**

Politically Correct?! No Way, José. Chorollaries Leave AU

Presenting Your



Audience Offended, Laughing, and Covered in Toilet Paper

Reefer Madness: Mom, in Stereo



The Chorallaries' annual concert, "Bad Taste," took place on Saturday, March 3 in 10-250. The concert featured a mixture of off-color comedy skits and songs. As is tradition, toilet and Athena paper was distributed ballistically to the audience members at the beginning of the concert. Audience members then continued to re-distribute the paper (directing most of it at the Chorallaries) until the end of the evening.

(center left) Besides showing up over twenty-four hours early, some students also showed up to Bad Taste in costume.

(Clockwise from top left) Jehan R. deFonseka '07, David R. Harvison '08, Michael P. Scarito '10, Samantha M. Palazzolo '10, Lyric P. Doshi '08, and Esteban L. Hufstedler '09 (left to right) camp outside 10-250 at 1:30 a.m. on the morning of Saturday, March 3 in order to get good seats for their dormitory, East Campus. They started waiting at 3 p.m. on Friday.

The Reefer Madness cast surprised the audience in the middle of the show, singing modified excerpts from the musical.

Jared C. Sadoian '10, as a member of the "Boston Bomb Squad," rushes fellow Chorallaries off-stage at the mention of the word "bomb" after a sketch about affirmative action's prevalence at MIT.

The Chorallaries wait to perform as they watch Benjamin M. Schwartz '06 read off the list of people to be offended.

Karena K. Tyan '08 holds up an LSC-style cue card

The Chorallaries and the group's alumni join together to sing the famous "The Engineers' Drinking Song."

Tess E. Wise '10 (left) listens to advice about relationships with significantly older men from her guardian angel, Anna Nicole Smith (Yelena S. Bagdasarova '10).

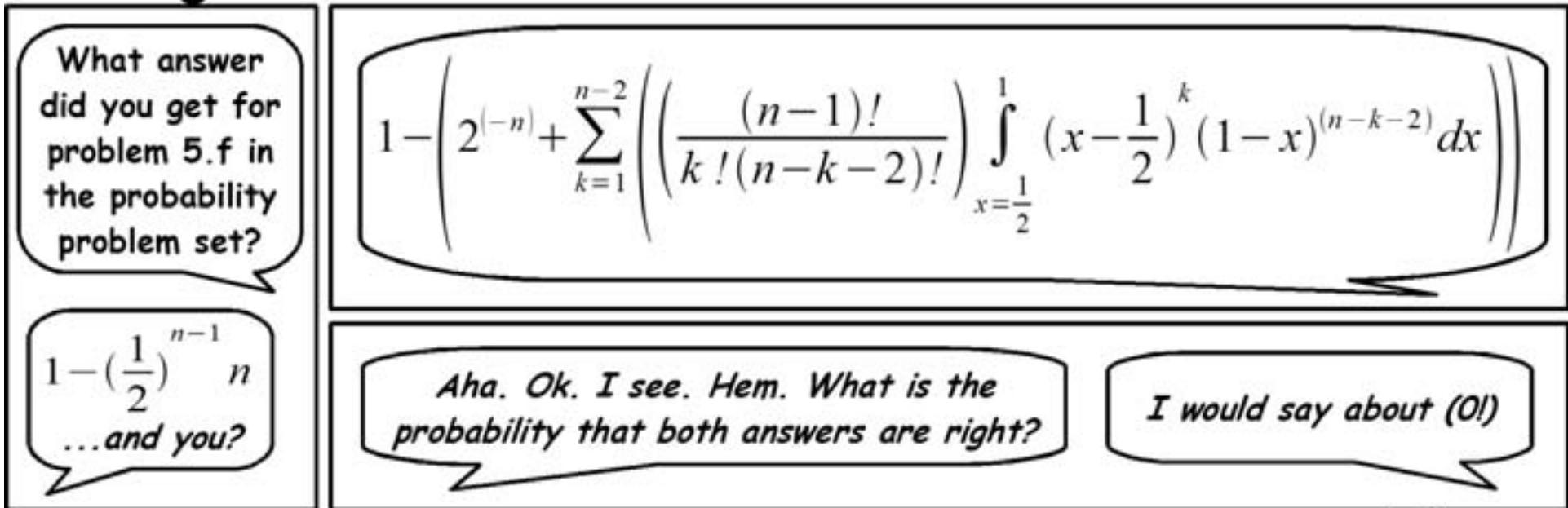
YeeKwan Lo '08 sings about her drunken freshman experience to the melody of Daniel Powter's "Bad Day."

Michael R. Blaisse '10, as the "emo kid," writes down his dark thoughts.



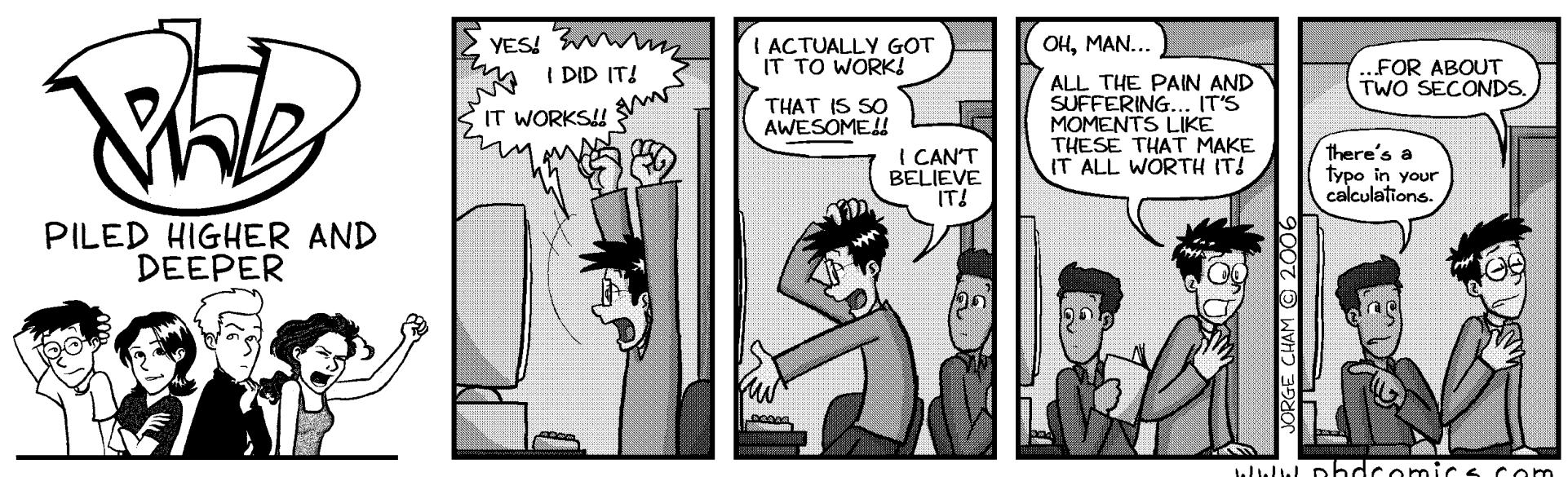
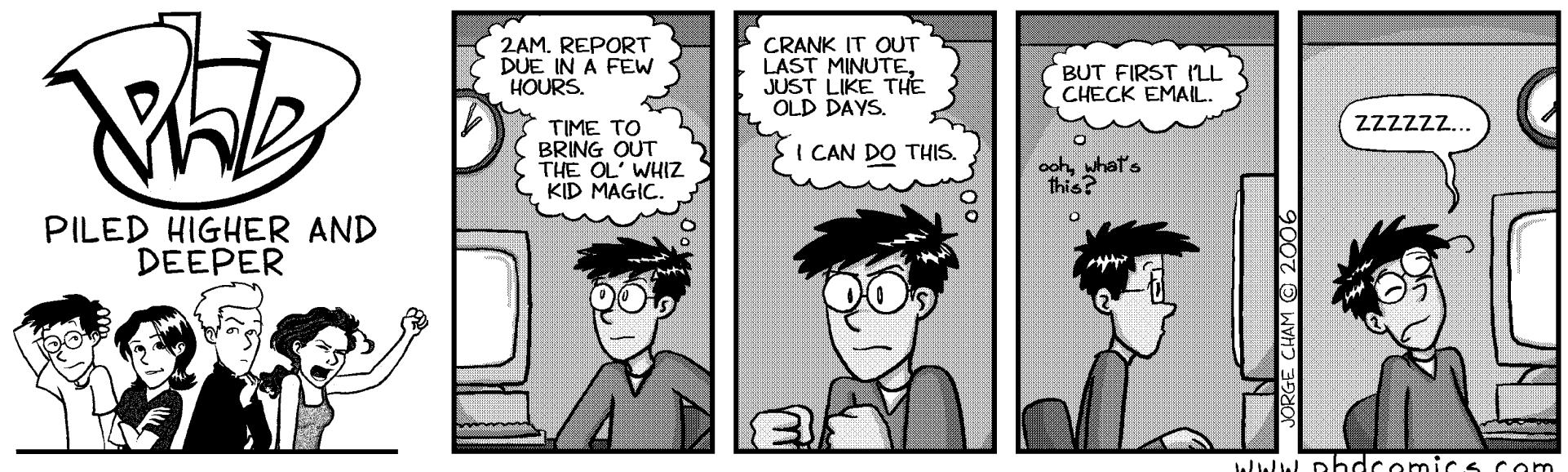
Run Bug

by Roberto Perez-Franco, G



2007-Mar-03

RunBug.com

GUSTAV the ANTISQUIRRELBy Scott Burdick
and Vera Pavel

Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury Flashbacks

Doonesbury Flashbacks

Dilbert® by Scott Adams**Pseudoscience**

by Daniel Klein-Marcuschamer

Fraction of awake students as a function of Professor talking speed

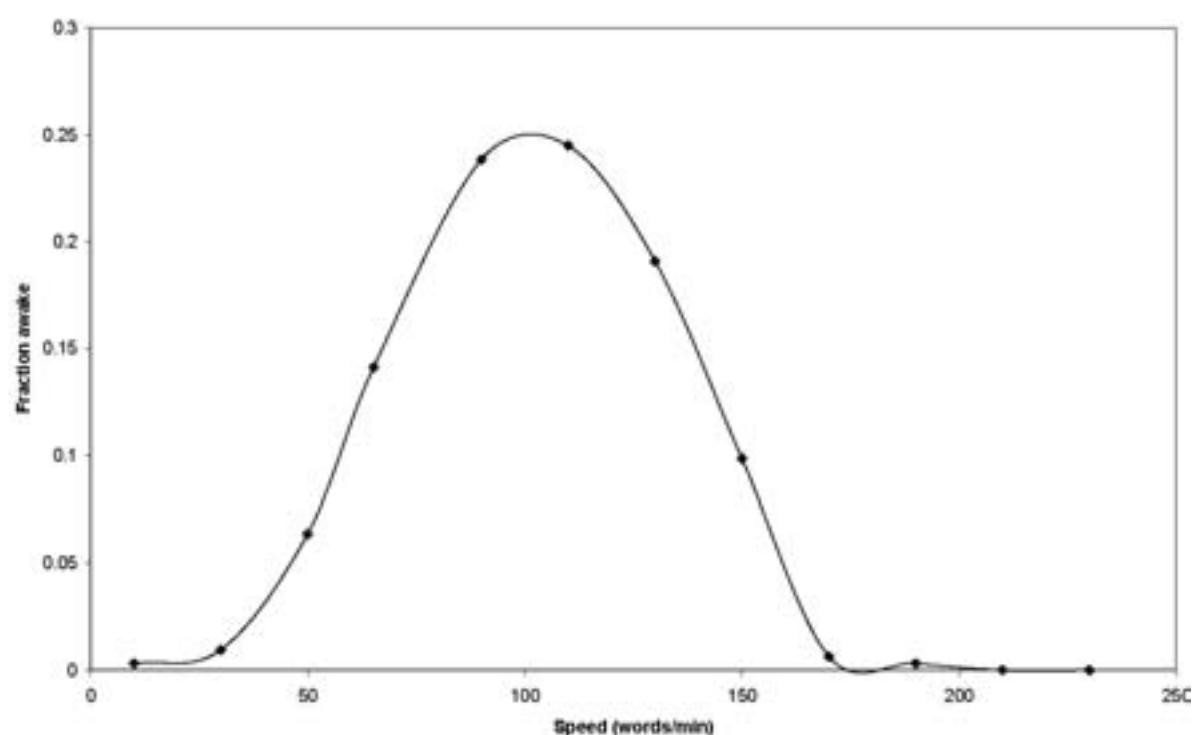
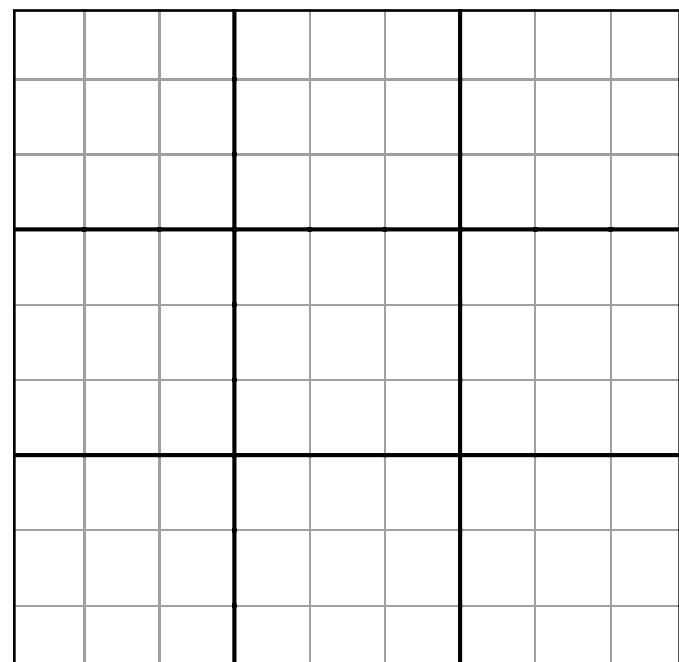


Figure 4. This graph illustrates the distribution of students that are not sleeping in a freshman Chemistry class as a function of the instructor's talking speed. Note that the study did not measure alertness, but was based purely on eye opening and snoring scores. Therefore, false positives are possible. Also note that the graph is much flatter than expected for a random sample of individuals (data not shown), implying that students are prone to sleep at any talking speed.

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom



Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>; see also solution, page 15.

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 12

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Lewis Music 14E-109

Lindgren 54-200
Rotch 7-238
Science 14S-100



Junior Earns Millions For Site

Millionaire, from Page 1

pretty much non-stop on the site.” “We’d get up and start programming,” with the television playing in the background, he continued.

Originally, “marketability was not the initial concern,” Presbrey said. Instead, he and Laraqui focused on coding interesting features and getting “the students excited about this stuff.” Later, however, the two collaborators worked with a friend from Harvard to obtain input on how the features they had designed would be seen from a business standpoint.

After Alloy — whose clients include Proctor & Gamble, Schick, and Nintendo — purchased Sconex, Presbrey said that the focus shifted largely onto marketability, which is “probably why I ended up not working there anymore.”

Sconex, whose name came from the site’s motto, “Stay connected,” is used nationwide, but it is especially popular among urban high school students on the East Coast. The site allows students to post their class schedule, create photo albums, blog, and leave notes on their friends’ “blackboards.” To ensure safety, registrants must answer security questions relevant to their high school, and students may remove others they do not recognize.

Presbrey worked on Sconex until the end of summer 2006 and no longer does any feature programming for Sconex. Occasionally, according to Presbrey, he still consults the company on database schema and how other systems work.

Presbrey said that he is “thinking about school right now” and is not currently working on any other startups. With only a few semesters left before graduation, he said, “I’m gonna crank it out before I go off starting another company.”

Presbrey is, however, involved in various projects on campus, working on public services offered by the Student Information Processing Board, and running the Undergraduate Association’s online voting system.

In high school, Presbrey started a computer consulting firm, although he gave away his clients once he came to MIT. He still consults for companies for which he has written programs. Presbrey has also written security software for Windows 98, obtaining a copyright for the program in the Library of Congress, but he chuckles over the fact that “no one uses Windows 98 anymore.”

“I think I may have learned the alphabet on the computer,” said Presbrey. He remembers that his interest in computers began when he grew bored with the menu of games that his dad set up on the computer and became curious about how he could download his own games.

President of Theta Delta Chi fraternity, Presbrey said that he’s “still a regular person” and does not think that he is a celebrity of any sorts.

And how will he spend his glorious \$6 million? On a future startup, of course.

Solution to Crossword

from page 11

--

CEOs, Faculty Join in Search For MIT Sloan Dean

By Robert Weisman
THE BOSTON GLOBE

MIT's Sloan School of Management is opening a search for a new dean to succeed Richard L. Schmalensee '65, who is scheduled to step down in June after nine years at the helm of the business school.

A search committee of outside business leaders and Sloan faculty members has retained two professional search firms: Heidrick & Struggles, which recruits top executives for corporations, and Isaacson, Miller, which specializes in recruiting for nonprofit organizations.

Committee members completed a job description for the Sloan dean last week and circulated it within the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It calls for a dean who, among other things, will "lead the faculty and other key stakeholders in the development of a strategy for 21st century management education and research at MIT Sloan."

They will begin sharing the job description more widely this week, targeting potential outside candidates, search committee cochairmen Lawrence K. Fish and Gabriel R. Bitran PhD '75 said in an interview.

Members of the search panel, which has been meeting weekly since December, have already compiled a list of about 100 candidates from within Sloan and MIT and from outside the Institute, said Fish, chairman and chief executive of Citizens Financial Group Inc. Other high-powered business leaders on the panel include John S. Reed, former Citicorp chairman, and Cara Carleton "Carly" Fiorina, former president and chief executive of Hewlett-Packard Co.

"We haven't limited our thinking to an academic or nonacademic, a domestic or a nondomestic candidate," Fish said.

Schmalensee, who disclosed his plans last fall to return to teaching, led Sloan through the past decade's technology boom and bust and sharpened the school's focus on global business and the management of high-technology and life-sciences companies.

Schmalensee has raised \$220 million and launched a \$142 million building initiative for the Sloan campus. Sloan is breaking ground this spring on construction of a new 209,000-square-foot main classroom and administration building on Memorial Drive in Cambridge.

Along with the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, Sloan is one of the few elite business schools in the United States offering an undergraduate program, as well as a two-year master's of business administration degree and executive education programs. The school has 96 full-time faculty members and 1,000 students.

MIT president Susan Hockfield named a search committee of business leaders led by Fish and a search committee of faculty members led by Bitran, a Sloan professor of management. At their first meeting in November, Fish and Bitran decided to merge the panels into one committee that would conduct the search jointly.

With construction soon to begin on the new campus and the school moving forward with Schmalensee's initiatives, Sloan is well positioned for the new dean, Bitran said. Among the goals for the next dean will be strengthening Sloan's ties with the rest of MIT, perhaps expanding its joint degree programs with other MIT schools, and directing its education and research toward new sectors, like alternative energy, a field Hockfield has identified as a focus for all of MIT.

"We are becoming more and more focused on actions that can have a strong impact on society," Bitran said. "For example, the energy effort at MIT is one that is tackling a very important issue. You will see a lot more integration with the institute, with Sloan working more closely with the engineering and sciences departments in the institute."

Fish said the search committee is looking for candidates who can represent Sloan externally, through fund-raising and speaking out on

management education, and can, as well, build bridges within MIT.

"We need the whole package:

someone who can work in an academic environment and who can relate to the people who practice what

we teach," he said.

"This is a major, powerful business school in the heart of one of the

elite universities in the world," Fish concluded. "We'll have no shortage of strong candidates."

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Panel Discusses Learning Methods at MacVicar Day

MacVicar, from Page 1

caring about the welfare of each student. "Teachers with big egos don't become good teachers," he said.

Fink added that though he has not yet given much thought to what to do with the MacVicar funds, managing the quality of teaching assistants is an important concern. "In my experience, TA quality is at least as or

more important than the quality of the lecturer." In that vein, he said that he would like to see a program similar to the UROP program devoted to teaching. Such a program would expose undergraduate teaching opportunities, giving potential future teachers an earlier start and getting more people interested in teaching.

As a Public Finance and Public Policy (14.41) professor, Gruber said that

he "bring[s] a real passion to the subject ... I think I convey that well because I'm kind of a hyperactive guy." Though he was not yet sure what he would use the funding for, he said that some interesting ideas, like podcast lectures, were brought up at the MacVicar reception. In any case, he said, the money should be spent on something for students.

Leiserson, who is currently on sabbatical, said that besides spending time at MIT, he is starting a company with one of his former PhD students. The Lexington company, Silk Arts, will develop software for multi-core processors.

Leiserson usually teaches Introduction to Algorithms (6.046J) and Mathematics for Computer Science (6.042J), the latter which he helped to develop. He said that he works hard at teaching, loves the material, and loves the students. He said he plans to use some of the funding for the Undergraduate Practice Opportunities Program because he has already developed a leadership module as engineering co-director of the program. The award allows him to work on education without having to worry about applying for a grant to fund such work, he said.

Orlin says that he has taught Optimization Methods in Management Science (15.053) every year for at least the last decade, except when he was on sabbatical. He already uses a wide range of teaching techniques, including PowerPoint animations to illustrate algorithms and varying the type of material he presents. He credited his "incredible TAs" with making learning easier as well.

Orlin plans to use his funding to further develop 15.053 by using the Classroom Communicator, a device which takes a poll of the class, and by developing more exercises and applications. The Classroom Communicator is already used in the Technology-Enhanced Active Learning physics classes to help teachers get a sense of whether students understand a concept.

Wallace said that he has "put an

awful lot of work into teaching" and tries to use small projects and project-based curriculum to keep students engaged. He said that he thinks the best teaching is that which "combines a thinking component with a doing component," because it goes beyond textbook learning and helps students retain knowledge longer.

Since he is a professor for Solving Real Problems (2.00B) and a lab instructor for Toy Product Development (SP.778), Wallace said that he will spend the funding on material for class exercises and demonstrations for 2.00B, The Product Engineering Process (2.009), and Product Design (2.744J).

The professors do not seem content to rest on their laurels. Wallace said that he is going to "work hard to live up to the title I've been given ... There's lots of work left to do."

Leann Dobranski, assistant director of the Teaching and Learning Lab, said that each Fellow was initially nominated by a faculty member or student. Candidates must then be endorsed by their department head. Nomination packets also need to include three supporting letters from faculty members and three supporting letters from current or former students. This year's selection advisory committee was chaired by Dean of Undergraduate Education Daniel E. Hastings PhD '80. Three current MacVicars, an undergraduate student, and an additional faculty member were also on the committee, Dobranski said.

The committee makes its recommendation to Provost L. Rafael Reif, who then makes the final decision on who will be recognized as MacVicar Fellows.

The MacVicars are named for Margaret MacVicar, who was MIT's first dean of undergraduate education before she passed away in 1991 at the age of 47. The program was begun in 1992.

Examining learning methods

More time was devoted to the topic of education and learning during a roundtable discussion held later in

the day. Eight faculty members, staff, and students were on a panel for the conversation that centered around the topic "I learn best when..." Each panel member shared their learning methods with the audience in the Stata Center (Room 32-141).

Their answers ranged from more traditional methods — Julie B. Norman, associate dean for the Office of Undergraduate Advising and Academic Programming, said that when she was a student, she learned best when she "studied in advance" — to the innovative — Deric A. Carter, executive director of Engineering Outreach Programs, said he learns best when he "tap[s] into the power of analogies."

Wallace had audience members guess how he learns best, exhibiting his love of demonstrations by pushing a cardboard replica of himself in order to elicit the response, along with laughs from the audience, that he learns best by "pushing himself."

Literature Professor Ruth Perry, who is a 2005 MacVicar Fellow, talked about how she sets up an environment to help her students learn. "If I come up with a question and bring it into class ... it engages them."

Deviyani Misra-Godwin '08 had a special take on learning, since she is studying at MIT this year through the Cambridge-MIT Exchange. At Cambridge, she said, "students don't talk about work outside lecture ... it's such a social taboo to do that." She said that she learns best when she can discuss her work with other people. Students at MIT are "much more open about learning and they embrace it," Misra-Godwin said.

The discussion was moderated by Professor Duane S. Boning '84, associate department head of the EECS Department, who earned his bachelor's, master's and PhD degrees from MIT. He said that he was "delighted to participate" as a discussion facilitator because he has seen learning from different perspectives.

Recommendation on Divestment Expected in Early April

Come early April, the Advisory Committee on Shareholder Responsibility will hand off their recommendations on whether MIT should divest from corporations doing business in Sudan to the MIT Corporation's Executive Committee. In a letter to *The Tech*, Alan Spoon, the chair of the

ACSR, wrote, "We expect to deliver our recommendation on possible courses of action to the Executive Committee for its consideration in early April."

Michael Baenen, staff to the ACSR, said that the letter is a "status update." Members of the ACSR met on Friday, March 2, but Baenen declined to outline any of the specific recommendations that are being considered.

The ACSR has been consulting "with individuals knowledgeable about events on the ground in Sudan," Baenen said. In addition, there has been some benchmarking with other colleges that have faced similar decisions, he said.

When the recommendations are presented to the Executive Committee, it is possible that they will not be released publicly at the same time. "We really need to have a chance for the Executive Committee to assess [the recommendations]," Baenen said.

Kayvan Zainabadi G, the author of a petition supporting divestment, said, "I'm relieved that they've finally come to a decision, but I'm also concerned that they are not making public their findings."

Last Friday's meeting was probably the last meeting of the ACSR before the recommendations are passed to the Executive Committee since details will hopefully be wrapped up by telephone and e-mail exchanges between committee members, Baenen said.

See below for the letter from Spoon.

—Marie Y. Thibault

Letter From Advisory Committee Chair

Knowing that many in the community are deeply concerned about the tragic events on the ground in Sudan, I write to offer an update on the work of the Advisory Committee on Shareholder Responsibility, which has been asked to make a recommendation to the Executive Committee of the MIT Corporation about whether any action should be taken with regard to MIT's investments in multinational companies that may be doing business in Sudan, and if so, what that action should be.

The Advisory Committee has met several times as a group since September, most recently at the end of last week. We have also consulted with a range of stakeholders and experts inside and outside MIT. We expect to deliver our recommendation on possible courses of action to the Executive Committee for its consideration in early April.

We are grateful for the many thoughtful comments we have received from faculty, students, and staff, and in particular for the role the ACSR members representing the Undergraduate Association and the Graduate Student Council have played in facilitating input from the student community.

Sincerely,
Alan Spoon
Chair, Advisory Committee on Shareholder Responsibility

CME Will Soon Need Other Funding Sources

Cambridge, from Page 1

CMI was founded in 2000 "to address some of the important issues underlying economic growth," according to the CMI Web site. CME, on the other hand, is the exchange program that allows 30-40 students from MIT to switch places for one year with students at Cambridge University.

According to Lucas, CMI is not expected to "be around in its current form after March 2008" and "won't be around to make contributions to CME" after that but will be providing funding for this year. The amount of funding is not predetermined. At the end of the year, the "CME office will give us a bill and we will reimburse them" for the expense of student stipends and administrative costs.

Lucas dismissed the possibility of the CMI contract being extended because "they feel the project did what it was supposed to do." "About half of the money has been spent in research collaborations ... which have led to the design of a very quiet aircraft" and led to the establishment of OrthoMimetics, a company which has "developed an improved protein for hip and knee implants." There are about 30-40 other projects, according to Lucas.

Lucas said that the absence of CMI funding might mean a slight reduction in the number of students exchanged. "One of the remarkable results of the program is that for five years about 3 percent of each class has spent a year in Cambridge."

According to Hedderick, the main cost of the CME program is the \$4,500 each CME student receives. This stipend would "make it easier for students" in light of the high living expenses in the United Kingdom and the exchange rate. According to Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD '75, MIT's goal is to give students access to study abroad programs "regardless of their financial need which means raising additional funds for financial aid."

"We have funding for the next year or two and will have to raise funding beyond that," said Clay in an e-mail. "Support for CME will be part of a larger commitment to support study abroad. We have a number of good models — CME, MISTI (MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives), and smaller department programs. We are excited by various 'laboratories' such as D-Lab."

Hedderick said that the CME office has received over 30 applications from sophomores interested in the program and hopes to have about 40 application within the next few days. The CME office selects students based on their applications and department recommendations. Applications for CME are due in the next few weeks, according to Hedderick.

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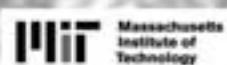
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Tissue engineering scaffolds are used to grow organs, an innovation that hopes to alleviate the shortage of organs for transplantation and the tragedy of organ trafficking.



Students Hope to Give Input on Needed Renovations

Kitchens, from Page 1

no plans, then goes ahead anyway," she said. "We don't want [Burton-Conner] to end up like NW35," she said, in regards to the administration's private discussions about removing a floor and amenities from the building. The administration ultimately decided not to remove a floor, after the plan drew complaints from graduate students and was reported in *The Tech*.

Benedict said that the NW35 student committee was "not actually involved in the exterior design of the buildings." He suggested that a Burton-Conner committee could possibly

bly have a say in renovation changes, including preserving kitchens.

Wyne was optimistic that a student committee could oversee any Burton-Conner changes. "Because of the fallout from a lot of the student proposals that have been implemented without student input, [the administration is] starting to realize it's not the best way to do things," he said.

Kitchens or not, renovations will eventually have to be made. "The buildings are just very old and tired," said Benedict.

Dennis Collins, Director of Housing, concurred with Benedict that a plan to remove Burton-Conner's

kitchens "isn't on the table at all" and that "East Campus and Burton-Conner certainly are in need of renovations."

Logistically, renovating dormitories poses a series of problems. Collins suggested renovations could parallel those at Senior House, where the dormitory was closed for a summer. Past proposals have included using W1, the current Ashdown House, as a swing dormitory to house undergraduates while renovations take place. That proposal is unlikely, according to Benedict, now that MIT has decided to increase the undergraduate class size.

Right now, however, housing is

concentrating on opening the new

gives Interim Report is available at <http://www-tech.mit.edu/V127/N9/bckitchens/housingreport.pdf>.

Stowell Enjoyed Physics, Teaching

Stowell, from Page 1

18.03 students, according to course instructor Professor Arthur P. Mattuck.

In an e-mail to 18.03 students Sunday, Mattuck described Stowell as "highly knowledgeable about the subject and deeply concerned with how best to teach it."

"Before the semester, he came in several times to discuss what the best way of running a recitation was," Mattuck said in the e-mail. "Entirely on his own initiative, he announced and ran one of the two evening quiz review sessions last week."

Stowell was a "very bright, capable young physicist" who was "full of good ideas," said Ronald C. Davidson, professor of Astrophysical Sciences at Princeton University and Stowell's PhD thesis advisor.

Davidson, who attended Stowell's wedding a few years ago, also described him as a "very serious physicist" and a "very determined young man." David said he thought of Stowell as "adventuresome."

Davidson recalled that, one summer on his way to the California Institute of Technology, Stowell decided to take a road trip instead of flying so that he could stop in Colorado for a few weeks to attend a high-energy physics workshop.

Stowell's PhD research focused on antihydrogen plasmas — combinations of protons and antiprotons. His thesis was titled "Kinetic Theory for Antihydrogen Re-Combination Schemes."

Kevin M. Farino '10, who sat in on some of Stowell's 18.03 recita-

tions, said Stowell seemed like "a really outgoing guy who liked what he was doing." Farino said that Stowell was "lively" in section.

"That's why this is so shocking," Farino said.

Stowell "really cared for imparting knowledge onto us," said Rodolfo A. Santos '10, a student in one of Stowell's recitations. Santos, like Stowell, is interested in high-energy plasma physics, and said he regrets not being able to talk to him about the field. Stowell was "always in a really good mood about ... teaching us," Santos said.

Mattuck requested a moment of silence in his two 18.03 lectures yesterday.

According to the Somerville Police, the case is currently with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which could not comment on the investigation. A representative of the Boston Police Executive Office of Public Safety said that the cause of death was pending and no additional information could be released.

Stowell was a resident of Somerville, Mass. and is survived by his wife and infant daughter.

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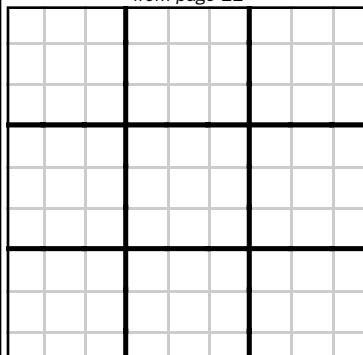
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Solution to Sudoku

from page 11



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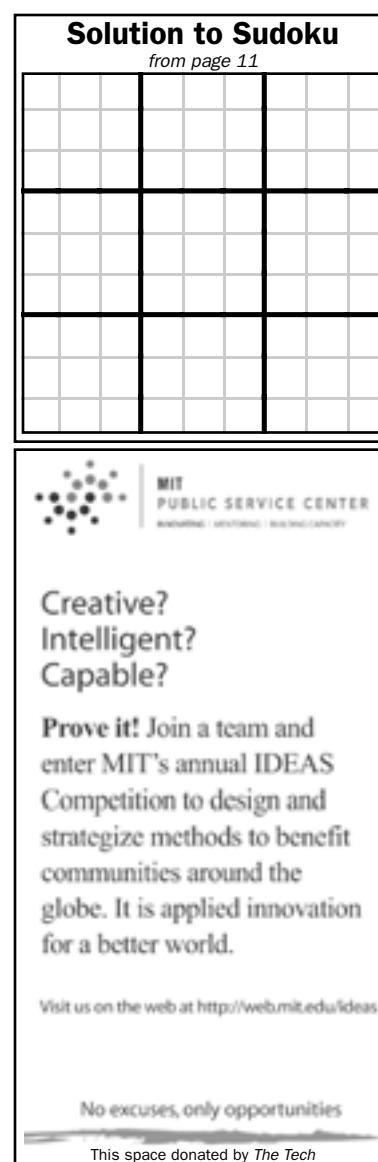
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SPORTS

Men's Tennis Sweeps Doubles, Wins 3 Singles to Beat Brandeis

Mindy Brauer

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SPORTS INFORMATION

The MIT men's tennis team swept the doubles matches and won the top three singles matches en route to a 6-3 victory over Brandeis University on Saturday. With the win, the Engineers improved to 2-0 on the year while the Judges dropped their first contest of the season.

The No. 3 doubles team of Melvin C. Makhni '07 and Colin L. Klick '07 defeated Adam Ciminello and Cliff Silverman, 8-2, for MIT's first

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victory of the day. David E. Iba '09 and Mark D. Egan '07 collaborated for an 8-5 decision over Adam Sher and Scott Schulman in the No. 2 slot. Thomas H. Dohlman '07 and Eric A. Beren '08 wrapped up doubles play by posting an 8-4 win in the top spot versus Sam Jonas and Jordan Bieber.

Dohlman extended the Engineers' lead to 4-0 following a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Jonas. Egan clinched the match with a 6-3, 7-5 decision against Bieber in the No. 3 position. Silverman put Brandeis on the board following a 6-1, 6-4 win over Peden P. Nichols '09. MIT notched its last

victory of the day in the No. 2 singles slot when Beren defeated Sher, 6-5, 7-6 (5).

The Judges closed the gap by winning the No. 5 and No. 6 matches in the super-tiebreaker. Klick recorded a 6-2 score in the first set, but Schulman answered with a win of his own by the same margin. He then outlasted Klick, 10-7, to earn the No. 5 singles victory. In the final match of the day, Derek Tesser posted a 6-4 decision in the opening set, but MIT's Manuel L. Rivera '10 won the second set, 6-3. Tesser bounced back to register a score of 10-6 in the super-tiebreaker.

Think you know how March Madness will play out?
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UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Men's Tennis vs. Salem State College

4:00 p.m., J.B. Carr Tennis Bubble

MIT Dominates Bates To Start Spring Season With Big Tennis Victory

Mindy Brauer

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SPORTS INFORMATION

The MIT women's tennis team kicked off its spring campaign with an 8-1 victory over Bates College on Saturday. With the win, the Engineers improved to 9-3 on the year while the Bobcats fell to 2-2.

The No. 2 doubles

tandem of Joanna L. MacKay '07 and Serena Y. Lin '08 led off with an 8-1 victory for MIT. Mariah N. Hoover '07 and Leslie A. Hansen '10 recorded an 8-4 decision in the top spot while Yi Wang '07 and Anisa K. McCree '10 wrapped up doubles play with a win by the same margin.

Hansen extended the Engineers' lead after defeating Caryn Benisch, 6-1, 6-3. The Cardinal and Gray clinched the match following Hoover's 6-3, 6-2 win in the No. 3 slot. Bates earned its only point of the day when Alexandra Piacquad defeated Lin, 6-1, 6-1, in the No. 2 position. Wang edged out Laura Harris, 6-4, 6-3, while MacKay did not drop a game in her 6-0, 6-0 No. 5 singles victory. Karina N. Pikhart '09 closed the day with a 6-4, 6-3 win in the No. 6 spot.

Hockey's Brenman Nabs ECAC Award

Mindy Brauer

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SPORTS INFORMATION

Sophomore defender Stephanie V. Brenman '09 was named an ECAC East All-Conference Team Honorable Mention after tallying seven goals and seven assists to rank third in scoring on MIT's women's ice hockey team. She is the second player in the program's history to receive this award as goaltender. Regina M. Sullivan '05 was chosen in 2004-05. The Engineers recorded the best season in the program's existence as they finished the year with an overall record of 5-14 and set new Institute standards in every offensive category.



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Location ➔ Pratt School, building 5 room 134

Time ➔ 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Refreshments will be served

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MIT Muslim Students Association presents
as part of our spring lecture series

Wed., March 7
6pm
4-270

JIHAD, HOLY WAR & TERRORISM

DR. JAMAL BADAWI

Is the term "Holy War" a proper translation of the Islamic Arabic term "Jihad," and what does "Jihad" mean anyway? Does it relate in any way to "terrorism," and what about those who commit acts of "terrorism" in the name of a religion? How do we deal effectively with "terrorism" and violence?

These are the central questions to be addressed by Dr. Jamal Badawi, Professor Emeritus at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, Canada.

Cosponsored by the MIT MSA and the Islamic Society of Boston